

Knowledge Organiser – 5 – Medieval England – High and Late Middle Ages



First Crusade
1095-1099



Magna Carta
1215



Peasants' Revolt
1381

Norman Conquest
1066-1080s



Death of Thomas Becket
1172



Black Death
1348-1350



Key people, ideas and developments

1	Norman England	Remember that the Normans are part of the Medieval Period and the Norman Invasion was a very significant event!
2	The Crusades	A series of wars about who should control an area in the Middle East which was then called the Holy Land (modern-day Israel-Palestine). It contains important religious sites for Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The Pope encouraged people to join. New knowledge was brought to England from Europe and the Islamic world, and trade improved. However the crusades led to increased taxes in England.
3	Death of Thomas Becket	Becket was Archbishop of Canterbury. He was murdered by Henry II's knights in his cathedral, after Henry said something that some people have suggested was an order to kill him. It was a very shocking event.
4	Magna Carta	First agreed to by King John in 1215 and re-agreed many times later. This was the first time legal limits were put on the monarch's power. It also guaranteed some important rights for 'free men' (not peasants), e.g. the right not to be put in prison without a trial. It is still an important symbol today.
5	Medieval Towns	Most people in Medieval England lived in villages – very small communities. They worked by farming land. However, trade was becoming more important, and many towns grew during this time. This changed the way people lived their lives.
6	The Black Death	This was a very deadly disease which came to England in 1348. It caused painful swellings on the body and people who caught it usually died within days. A third to a half of England's population was killed. This changed the structure of society.
7	Peasants' Revolt	Peasants were angry because they were poor, their freedoms were limited and the King Richard II made them pay a new tax, making them even poorer. They started a rebellion to try to fight for their rights. The rebellion was crushed by the king.

Key terms

8	Islam, Christianity and Judaism	Three religions which have some similarities in their beliefs and histories. E.g. belief in one god, importance of Abraham/Ibrahim.
9	The Pope	The person in charge of the Catholic Church, a type of Christianity.
10	archbishop	The most important figure in the church in a particular country.
11	monarch	A person who is in charge of their country because they were born into the role.
12	For definitions of monarch, baron, knight, peasant and rebellion, look at the Norman Conquest knowledge organiser.	
13	trade	Buying and selling things as a way of making money.



People with the Black Death. The lumps on their body are called Buboes. In the background, a priest praying for them. This shows the importance of religion in the understanding of illness at this time.

King John adding his seal to Magna Carta in 1215. The barons were angry with him because he kept on charging high taxes and using the money to fight expensive wars which he lost.

